

Application No. 10/755,704
Amendment

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Remarks

Claims 2-9, 12-16, 18-23, and 26-71 were pending in the application. Claims 2-9, 12-16, 18-23, 25-39, and 50-71 were allowed. Claims 40, 42, 44, and 46 were rejected. Claims 41, 43, 45, and 47-49 were objected to. Claims 40, 42, 44, and 46 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 41, 43, 45, and 47 are amended. Claims 2-9, 12-16, 18-23, 26-39, 41, 43, 45, and 47-71 are now pending in the application. Claims 5, 13-16, 18-21, 25, 28, 41, 43, 45, and 47 are the independent claims. Reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 40, 42, 44, and 46 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lucas, in view of Bly. The Examiner also objected to claims 41, 43, 45, and 47-49 as depending from a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Independent claims 40, 42, 44, and 46 are canceled.

Dependent claim 41 is amended to explicitly recite all the features of independent claim 40, from which it depends. Thus, claim 41 is amended in form only, and not in substance. It is therefore submitted that claim 41 is allowable. The objection to claim 41, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 43 is amended to explicitly recite all the features of independent claim 42, from which it depends. Thus, claim 43 is amended in form only, and not in substance. It is therefore submitted that claim 43 is allowable. The objection to claim 43, therefore, should be withdrawn.

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Dependent claim 45 is amended to explicitly recite all the features of independent claim 44, from which it depends. Thus, claim 45 is amended in form only, and not in substance. It is therefore submitted that claim 45 is allowable. The objection to claim 45, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 47 is amended to explicitly recite all the features of independent claim 46, from which it depends. Thus, claim 47 is amended in form only, and not in substance. It is therefore submitted that claim 47 is allowable, as are claims 48 and 49, which depend from claim 47. The objection to claims 47-49, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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